

SIR JOHN BARROW'S COPY OF AITON'S "HORTUS KEWENSIS."

By S. GARSIDE.

It has recently been observed by the present writer that the copy of Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis*, Ed. I, (1789) which belonged to the late Dr. H. Bolus, and which is now in the library of the Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, contains the book-plate, with coat of arms, of Sir John Barrow, F.R.S., F.L.S., (1764—1848), traveller in China and South Africa, Auditor-General at the Cape of Good Hope, and for forty years Second Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir John tells us in his "Autobiographical Memoir," (1847, p. 138), that the year before he made the voyage to the Cape, he spent considerable time at Kew, along with Sir George Staunton, of Devonshire Street, Portland Place, London. He writes "Three days in the week generally, Mr. Staunton and I paid our visit to Kew Gardens, to botanise with Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis* in our hands, which, in my future travels in South Africa, was of the greatest service to me, Kew being in possession of a large portion of the flora of the Cape of Good Hope."

After a voyage of over ten weeks, Sir John arrived in Cape Town on the 4th of May, 1797, and very soon prepared for his travels, which he commenced on July 1st of the same year. He says (*loc. cit.* p. 143), "The only books I carried with me were Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis* and the *Systema Naturae*, which were of great importance, affording me both comfort and assistance." Here, therefore, are clear indications that the copy of Aiton's *Hortus* in the Bolus Herbarium Library might be the actual one taken on the travels.

Fortunately in the "Autobiographical Memoir" (p. 147), there is yet another statement which completely confirms this supposition. He says "Of the protea, the *Hortus Kewensis* describes twenty-four species, of which I find eleven species marked in the margin, as having been seen by me in this district," (i.e. the Cape district).

On referring to the Bolus Library copy of the *Hortus*, it was found that exactly eleven species had marginal annotations. These are listed below, the modern name being added in brackets after Aiton's name; Sir John's marginal note, with the original spelling retained, concludes each line.

- Protea Serraria*. (*Serruria Burmannii* R. Br.) Wynberg.
Protea spicata. (*Paranomus spicatus* O. Kuntze.) H. Holland Kloof.
Protea conocarpa. (*Leucospermum conocarpum* R. Br.) Town & Ca.
Protea pinifolia. (*Aulax pinifolia* Berg.) Stellenbosch Mts.
Protea racemosa. (*Spatalla gracilis* Knight.) Rode Zant.
Protea umbellata. (*Aulax cneorifolia* Knight.) Yonkers Hoek.
Protea cinerea. (*Leucadendron cinereum* R. Br.) Pardeberg.
Protea Scolymus. (*Protea scolymocephala* Reichard.) Town.
Protea mellifera. (*Protea mellifera* Th.) Town & Ca.
Protea plumosa. (*Leucadendron plumosum* R. Br.) Town.
Protea pallens. (*Leucadendron adscendens* R. Br.) Town.

There is considerable doubt regarding the identity of Aiton's "*Protea cinerea*"; the identification given above is taken from Robert Brown, *Proteaceae*, Trans, Linn. Soc. X. 57 (1810).

It is not known with certainty how the copy of the *Hortus* came to Dr. H. Bolus, but it was probably by purchase in London. That the book was not left behind in South Africa, when Sir John returned to London, is proved by the last of the above quotations from his autobiography, for this work was written in London, when he was 83 years old, and when writing it he looked up the genus *Protea* in order to count the number of species which he had seen.

The year following the completion of the "*Autobiographical Memoir*," which has been of such value in determining the authenticity of the copy of the *Hortus Kewensis* under discussion, Sir John died in London on November 23rd, 1848.